

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 03947 082258Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 EB-08 DLOS-09 L-03 CG-00
DOTE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /052 W
-----046060 090153Z /61

R 082116Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO USDA/FAS/WASHDC
INFO USDOC WASHDC
SECSTATE WASHDC 9918

UNCLAS LIMA 3947

EO 11652: N/A
SUBJ: PERUVIAN FISH SITUATION

REF: TEL LIMA 3126

TOFAS : 50

1. THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES ANNOUNCED ON MAY 4 THAT EFFECTIVE MAY 12, TWENTY BOATS WILL BE AUTHORIZED TO CATCH ANCHOVIES FROM 17 DEGREES LATITUDE SOUTH TO THE CHILEAN BORDER. THIS ACTION IS DUE IN PART TO THE REPORTED SUCCESS OF FISHING ACTIVITIES BY CHILEANS. IT IS INTERPRETED HERE AS AN EXPLORATORY VENTURE SINCE NUMBER OF BOATS AUTHORIZED IS VERY SMALL. EVENTUAL LEVEL OF FISHING WILL DEPEND UPON RESULTS OF THIS SMALL SCALE ACTIVITY.

2. SUCCESS OF FISHING ACTIVITY REPORTED REFTEL QUITE UNFAVORABLE. OVER 40,000 MT CAUGHT IN THE FIRST WEEK OF OPERATION, BUT CATCH REPORTED TO INCLUDE LARGE PERCENTAGE AUCHOVIES OF WHICH AT LEAST 50 PERCENT WERE LESS THAN 12 CM LENGTH CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL FOR EXPLOITATION. ONLY 15,000 MT CAUGHT IN SECOND WEEK. THEREFORE 30 OF THESE BOATS HAVE RETURNED TO SHORE. THIS LEAVES A TOTAL OF 30 BOATS FISHING FOR OTHER SPECIES AND 20 BOATS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN FISHING FOR ANCHOVIES ON MAY 12.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHING INDUSTRY, FISHING REGULATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LIMA03947
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780195-0562
Format: TEL
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780583/aaaacszd.tel
Line Count: 47
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2ae3b4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 TEL AVIV 3126
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2763651
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PERUVIAN FISH SITUATION
TAGS: EFIS, PE
To: AGR
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2ae3b4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014